186. Administrative Reforms.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara taluk, Group I*) said that Government did not attempt to solve the serious problems of constitutional importance which confronted them. Though the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was 26 years old, it deteriorated in powers and status from year to year. Its members had no right to ask questions, to move resolutions, to legislate or to discuss the budget. Those powers had been granted long ago to the Popular Assembly in Mysore.

It was high time to overhaul the constitution of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and to invest it with some responsibility and power.

The Legislative Council in Travancore was one of the oldest in Indian States. But several important matters relating to the welfare of the people were excluded from its purview. As the head of the administration was also the President of the Council, members could not fully and freely discuss Government policy. The rulings of the President curbed the growth of the institution. Government reserved to themselves the power to veto, or to hold in abeyance, resolutions passed in the legislature. The exercise of those powers by Government made the Council an impotent body. Full responsible Government should be introduced if the Legislative Council were to become a useful institution. A Cabinet or Executive Council, consisting of the Dewan, two members of the Legislative Council and one or two members of the Assembly should be created. That body should be responsible for its actions to the Council and the Assembly and through them to the people of the country.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, I shall give a common reply after hearing all the members who propose to speak on the subject.

187. Administrative reforms.

MR. C. PERCY BHANU (*Pattanapuram taluk*) said that the educational system of the country stood in need of reform. Different courses of studies should be prescribed for boys and girls. Agricultural and vocational training should be introduced in the school curricula. The great disparity between the scales of pay of the different grades of teachers should be removed. The pay of teachers in vernacular schools should be enhanced.

There were innumerable dispensaries in the State which were conducted by persons who had no knowledge of medicine. In consequence those dispensaries became, so to speak, the plague spots of the country. Only qualified persons should be given licenses for medical practice. Hospitals for women should be opened in all important places. Nurses and midwives should be appointed in every village. A tuberculosis hospital should be opened in the State. Arrangements should be made for lectures on epidemic diseases being delivered in rural areas by medical men. Officers of the Sanitary Department should take a more active interest in their work.

The work of the Industries Department was not satisfactory. The people did not derive much benefit from the department. Industrial education should be introduced in schools. Government should render pecuniary aid to cottage industries.

Although Travancore was an agricultural country, raw materials were being imported from foreign countries. The Department of Agriculture failed to arouse interest in the use of scientific methods of agriculture. Experiment should precede propaganda. The organisation for agricultural improvement should not end with the experimental or demonstration farm, but should be carried down to the villages. Agricultural boards should be constituted in every taluk. The heads of the Development Departments should attend the meetings of the boards periodically. Demonstration farms should be opened in all taluks. Means should be devised for the easy sale of agricultural produce.

Two or three depots should be opened in every taluk for enabling agriculturists to store raw products. Trade Agents should be appointed in London and New York for the advertisement of local products. Larger sums should be provided every year in the budget of the Department of Co-operative Societies for increasing the pay and number of the Inspectors and Supervisors in the department.

Measures should be devised for putting down corruption in public service.

The South Travancore Christians should be given better encouragement in public service.

The acting clerks of the Huzur Office should be given annual increments of pay, as they had ordinarily to wait for not less than seven years for being confirmed in their respective appointments.

Married women should not be entertained in service. Their proper place was in the home.

The proposed Quilon-Ernakulam railway should be opened in the near future. That would afford an easy solution to the problem of unemployment among the masses.

An Executive Council should be created to lighten the work and responsibilities of the Dewan and secure uniformity of policy in administrative matters.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Percy Bhanu, most of the points in your representation have already been urged by other members and I have replied to them. But there are just one or two matters which have not been touched upon by other members. You spoke about the Industries Department and said that it is doing nothing which is of benefit to the people of the country. As a matter of fact, there are two sections in that department which are doing propaganda work and are touring about and training the people of the country. Those two sections are the Textile Section and the Tanning Section.

There are several itinerant weaving parties which are working in different parts of the State giving instruction in new methods of weaving to the weaving population in different localities; so also the Tanning Section.

As regards your remarks about entertainment of women in Government service, I am not at all sure that your views would be accepted by many people. You are not likely to have a majority to support you. From what we have seen in the recent past, we may almost be sure that you would not have a majority. The Government note your views on the point.

As regards the railway, that is a new subject that you have mentioned. Surveys are being conducted of several lines. The surveys have not yet been completed.

188. Administrative reforms.

MR. C. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) said that every community should be represented in the public service, the extent of representation being determined with due regard to its numerical strength. The cost of the public service was enormous. The pay of the officers in the higher ranks should therefore be reduced.

Taluk boards should be constituted to advise executive officers.

The tolls levied in markets should be abolished.

The experts of the Department of Industries were not making themselves useful to the public. They should be sent again to foreign countries to learn the methods of manufacture of the different kinds of articles required for local consumption. An industrial survey should be conducted and the knowledge gained from it be used for the purpose of establishing suitable industries. More roads should be constructed in the interests of trading communities. The funds required for the proposed extension of the railway to Ernakulam could be better utilised for opening new road communications.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Parameswaran Pillai, നിങ്ങൾ ഒടുവിൽപറഞ്ഞ വിഷയത്തിനു സമാധാനം പറയാം. മുമ്പു ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി പ്രസ്താവിച്ച മെമ്പർക്കു കൊടുത്ത മറുപടി കൊട്ടാരക്കര—ഏറണാകുളം റയിൽവെ നടപ്പാക്കുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവണ്മെൻറു ഒന്നുംതന്നെ തീർച്ച ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലെന്നാണു്.

പിന്നെ ചന്തകളിൽ പിരിക്കുന്ന ടോൾ നിറുത്തണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. ആ ടോളിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്നതിൽ സ്വല്പം തുക സാമാനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്ന ആളുകൾ കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിലും വാസ്തവത്തിൽ വലിയ തുക ഇടാക്കുന്നതു സാമാനങ്ങൾ വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പോകുന്നവരിൽ നിന്നാണു്. ചന്തസംരക്ഷണത്തിനു ഒരു വലിയ തുക ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ചിലവാക്കുന്നുമുണ്ടു്.